

PART II

CHAPTER XV

ESTABLISHMENT OF FORT ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Written by Linda W. Slaughter in 1896

On July 2nd, 1864, congress passed an act granting right of way through Indian country to the Northern Pacific Railway Company, entitled "an Act granting lands to aid in the construction of a railroad and telegraph line from Lake Superior to Puget Sound on the Pacific coast, by the northern route."

In 1870, the northern portion of the great Territory of Dakota was unsettled and unoccupied by white men, save by the cordon of military posts—Randall, Sully, Rice, Stevenson, and Buford, that stretched along the Missouri—and the intervening Indian agencies of Lower Brule, Cheyenne, Ponca, Yanktonaise, Standing Rock and Berthold, and few settlers in the Red River Valley, and at Pembina.

Outside the forts and agencies the tribes of the hostile Sioux held undisputed sway, except in the eastern part.

At Fort Rice, where I was then residing, in 1871, we at first believed that the Northern Pacific actually contemplated building its railroad through the Sioux country, and the plan was regarded as the wildest folly by every officer on the frontier, but orders came from department headquarters at St. Paul to fit out an expedition at Fort Rice to accompany the engineers of the proposed railroad on a surveying tour to the Yellowstone River.

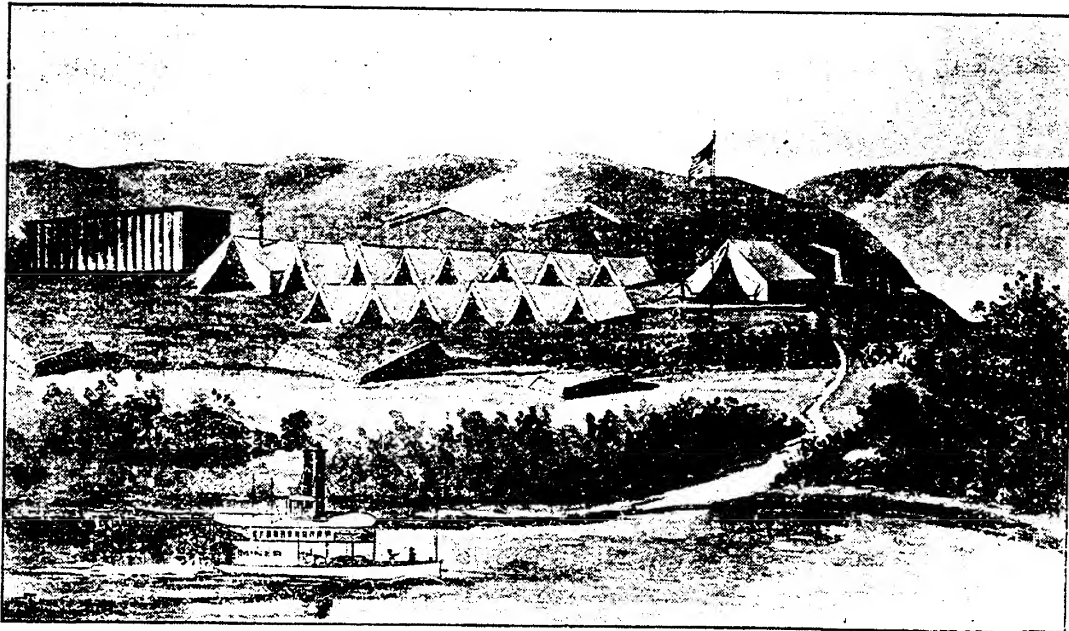
In accordance with these orders troops began to concentrate at the fort, and on September 6, 1871, the engineering party under military escort arrived overland from Fort Abercrombie. They were General Thomas Rosser, assistant chief engineer, accompanied by Messrs. Meigs and Estman, and several surveyors and their assistants.

On the morning of September 9, 1871, the expedition left Fort Rice and wound out over the hills, the regimental band escorting the column to the foot of the hills. The military escort consisted of five hundred men, a detachment of artillery with two gatling guns, fifty mounted Indian scouts under command of Lt. Turnock, and a train of one hundred wagons, the whole under command of General Whistler, 22nd Infantry.

The first courier from the expedition arrived at Fort Rice on October 14, 1871, and on the day following all the troops returned and went into camp outside the fort except Company D of the 17th,

under Captain Clarke, and the engineering party who marched on down the Little Heart river to its mouth, in order to ascertain the advantages afforded by that point of crossing. On the afternoon of the 17th they were met and escorted into the fort by the post band. The engineers reported that the expedition had been a great success. That the route surveyed from the Little Heart River to the Yellowstone was practicable, and that the railroad would be built. The day ended with a grand military ball, given by the ladies of the fort, in honor of our civilian and military guests.

The spring of 1872 brought much work to the troops at Fort Rice in the way of similar expeditions on a small scale. Company after company was detailed to act as escort to the engineers who were engaged in running new lines of survey to the westward. This duty was extremely dangerous, as the Sioux, believing that these proceedings were in violation of treaty obligations, lost no opportunity to attack the expeditions.



CAMP GREENE 1872

Sketched by Linda W. Slaughter from deck of steamboat "Miner"

In April, 1872, a supply camp was established for the convenience of the engineers—some three miles below the site of Fort Abraham Lincoln, at the mouth of the Little Heart River.

The new post was christened Camp Greene, and the K Company of the 17th under command of Lieutenant Greene with Lieutenant Cairns and Dr. Slaughter as post surgeon, were sent up from Fort Rice to occupy the post. It was then thought that Camp Greene was

to be the permanent post, then designed to be built at the crossing of the Missouri river by the railroad; but the following order was soon afterward issued from department headquarters.

Headquarters Department of Dakota
St. Paul, April 17, 1872

Special Orders No. 65:

A board of officers is hereby appointed to select and recommend for adoption a site for the location of a new post to be constructed on the west bank of the Missouri, at or in immediate vicinity of the point where the Northern Pacific will cross the river.

Detail for board: Col. D. S. Stanley, 22nd Infantry, Capt. J. W. Scully, Capt. D. W. Heap, Engineers corps, U. S. N. and Dr. B. F. Slaughter, U. S. A.

The board will assemble as soon as practicable at Fort Rice, D. T., and proceed thence to make the necessary examination precedent to rendering its report and making a recommendation.

The commanding officer at Fort Rice will cause to be furnished such transportation and escorts as may be required to enable the board to execute its instructions.

By command of Major General Hancock,
O. D. Greene

Assistant Adjutant General

It was then the intention of the Railroad to cross the river at the mouth of the Little Heart River, but that was changed to the point opposite to the site of Fort Lincoln on the Hill and this plan was changed later and the crossing finally made at the mouth of the Big Heart River, now Mandan.

The expedition to determine the site failed to return on the appointed time, and as the couriers from the fort failed to find them the greatest distress prevailed at the fort. When they did come back, the Free Masons, for there was a prosperous lodge at the fort, gave them a banquet and ball that was long memorable in the social life of the post.

On June 6, 1872, the steamer "Miner" from Sioux City, conveying the 6th Infantry Regiment, under General W. B. Hazen, to garrison Forts Stevenson and Buford, arrived at Fort Rice. They proceeded the next day to Camp Greene. A second large expedition to the Yellowstone River as escort to the Northern Pacific surveying party, which was fitted out at Fort Rice, in July 1872, and consisted of portions of three regiments, the 8th, 17th, and 22nd Infantry, with some artillery and cavalry and mounted Indian scouts. The Engineering party consisted of Engineer Thomas Rosser, with Engineers Lindsley and Eckelson and a corps of surveyors and assist-

ants. This party formed separate camp from the military and carried their own mess tents. The column left Fort Rice on July 25, 1871, and surveyed a route from the Heart River to the Yellowstone. They returned October 14th of the same year.

Part of the surveyors and an escort of soldiers under Major Baker went out from Bozeman, Montana in 1871 and ran the line along the Yellowstone River to where now stands the present town of Billings, where they met the expedition under General Whistler, from Fort Rice, D. T., who went as far as the mouth of the Powder River. The next year (1872) the work was resumed but they were attacked by Black Moon and Sitting Bull with hundreds of warriors and although the Indians were repulsed the work was abandoned until more soldiers could be put in the field.

Major B. F. Slaughter kept a diary of the trip and the following is the entry as of October 14, 1871.

"The great expedition to the Yellowstone, conducted by engineers of the Northern Pacific Railroad and escorted by U. S. Troops, that left Fort Rice, has returned having successfully accomplished the exploration and survey of route through Yellowstone Valley, reaching to the river of that name and to the mouth of Powder River. The party encountered many hostile Indians and their return march is described as a series of constant skirmishes. But few lives were lost, however, as every precaution was taken to prevent straggling from the main line,

The board appointed to select a location for the new fort McKean convened at Fort Rice in 1872 with General Crittendon as president and Dr. Slaughter as recorder.

"In company with T. C. Lindsley and T. L. Rosser, engineers of the Northern Pacific, they proceeded by steamer "Ida Stockdale" to the point designated by them as the railroad crossing of the Missouri River. After a careful examination of the ground in the vicinity the board selected as the most eligible reservation the lands described below."

Here follows in the official report a description of the land set off as the reservation of Fort McKean afterward known as "Ft. Lincoln on the Hill," south of Mandan, and the site of which was still marked by the trees planted by General W. P. Carlin, then Lieutenant Colonel of the 17th, when commandant of the fort in 1872.

The report of the board was accepted and the fort was built on the spot selected by them and named Fort McKean, in honor of a gallant officer, Colonel Boyd McKean, of the Pennsylvania Volunteers, who was killed at Cold Harbor while leading a charge. It

was located on a commanding bluff from which the sentries could see for miles around in every direction. But it had no parade ground and water had to be hauled from the Missouri River. So when General Phil Sheridan of Civil War fame came to Dakota on a tour of inspection, he decided to build a cavalry post also. The name was changed to "Fort Lincoln on the Hill." The cavalry barracks were built the next year on the flats and with the officers quarters were known as "Fort Lincoln" under the Hill". General Custer and the 7th cavalry came the spring of '73 and occupied the cavalry post of "Fort Lincoln under the Hill."

On July 2nd, 1874, this force under Lieutenant Colonel Custer, 1220 strong, and comprising cavalry, infantry, four gatling guns and sixty Indian scouts, accompanied by a long wagon train of provisions and baggage, left Fort Lincoln and took up the line of march for the Black Hills. Prof. Winchell of Minnesota, was engaged as geologist of the expedition, assisted by Dr. Williams, U. S. A. of Fort Rice, Geo. Grinnel of New Haven represented Yale University on the trips and made valuable reports on the paleontology and zoology of the country passed over. Col. William Ludlow, U.S.A. chief engineer of the department, with his civil assistant and men of the engineer batallion, were with the party. Upon their return all these distinguished scientists reported there was no gold in the Black Hills. But a party of miners from Bismarck headed by H. N. Ross and W. T. McKay, who accompanied the expedition, brought back with them specimens of quartz that satisfied the most skeptical that there was gold in the Black Hills—a fact which the officers at Fort Rice were fully convinced in 1871, by occular proof.

It was the Custer expedition of 1874 that led to the permanent development and settlement of the Black Hills country, and started the tide of immigration that poured in via. the plains of Northern Dakota, and which contributed greatly to the upbuilding of the twin cities of the Missouri—Bismarck and Mandan—as outfitting points for the immense traffic with that region from 1875 to 1877.

A line of stages was run from Bismarck to Deadwood, and hundreds of teams were engaged in freighting. All branches of trade revived, and the blight that had seemingly fallen on the country in consequence of the townsite troubles and the Jay Cooke failure in 1873 was at last brushed away.

One of the most sensational events in the history of Fort Abraham Lincoln occurred in 1875, when two companies of the 7th cavalry with General Custer at their head came up Main street and halted at the store of the mayor of the City of Bismarck. For

months past Major John Carland, a gallant officer of the 6th, had been detailed on special duty, and with Deputy U. S. Marshal M. J. Edgerly had located quantities of grain stolen from the quartermaster at Fort Lincoln and secreted in various quarters in the city. Custer's errand was to capture and reconver the grain to Fort A. Lincoln. He carried back with him sundry residents of the City of Bismarck whom he accused of depredations upon the wood and mule departments, as well as the granaries of Fort A. Lincoln, and these he incarcerated in the post guardhouse.

This incident, so humiliating to the pride of the people of Bismarck, formed another link in the chain of destiny that was drawing the great war chief, Custer, at Fort Lincoln irresistibly to his fate.

Through the good offices of a scout named Charley Reynolds, or "Silent Charley," the murderer of the unarmed civilians, Dr. Houtzinger and Mr. Balarink, who had been killed on the march with the Custer expedition of 1873, was discovered. It was Rain-in-the-Face who confessed the crime. General Custer at once sent his brother's company of the 7th Cavalry as escort to U. S. Deputy Marshal Edgerly, and at Standing Rock in the midst of thousands of the tribes, they captured the murderer and safely lodged him in the Fort Lincoln guard house.

Two men were arrested in Bismarck by General Custer and taken to the Fort. Through the connivance of a soldier implicated with them some boards were removed from the rear of the wall of the guard house through which the prisoners escaped, although one was recaptured. Through the same aperture escaped Rain-in-the-Face, who went directly to the camp of the hostile Sitting Bull, where he was soon joined by his followers and whence through Agency Indians he sent earnest messages to General Custer and his brother Tom, that he ardently awaited his opportunity to be revenged for his imprisonment on them both. These messages or death threats were faithfully relayed to them by the scouts.

In the spring of 1876 the government decided to attempt the subjugation of Sitting Bull and the lawless tribe who from their stronghold at the headwaters of the Yellowstone, were continually sending out war parties to annoy the white settlements. The body of peaceful Indians at the agencies were greatly excited at the projected building of the Northern Pacific railroad through the hunting grounds that had been secured to them by the treaty of 1868.

The invasion of the Black Hills incited them to fury, and a general uprising of the whole body of Indians in the Northwest was

threatened. It was therefore deemed best to strike a decisive blow directly at the headquarters of the savage tribes, and by breaking up their rendezvous in the Yellowstone regions compel them to return and surrender at the agencies on the Missouri River.

It was arranged that three expeditions should start simultaneously for the headquarters of the Yellowstone, one from the north under General Gibbon, one from the east under General Terry, and one from the south under General Crook. The departure of the column from the east was relayed in consequence of the absence of General Custer in Washington to give evidence before congressional investigating committee then engaged in investigating charges against Secretary of War Belknap, relative to the sale of army post-traderships which had long been a scandal on the frontier. Custer's testimony was not pleasing to Belknap and General Grant, and it is believed to be in consequence of the above event that General Custer was displaced from the command of the eastern column then in process of organization at Fort Abraham Lincoln, and forbidden by the president (Grant) to accompany the troops on the march. General Terry was placed in command, but afterward, in response to the earnest entreaties of General Custer, he was permitted to go in charge of the 7th cavalry. Thus reorganized, the column left Fort Abraham Lincoln in May, 1876, with twelve companies of the 7th Cavalry, three companies of the 6th and 17th each, four gatling guns and a detachment of forty-five scouts under the Arikkaree Chief "Bloody Knife." The wagon train consisted of one hundred and seventy-four six-mule wagons, thirty-seven two-horse teams; seventy other vehicles, ambulance, etc., with eighty-five pack mules and one hundred and seventy-nine civilian drivers, a total force of two thousand seven hundred armed men. Nearly all of the population of Bismarck and Mandan assembled to see the imposing column leave the fort. The band playing "Garry Owen" and as it wound over the hills changed to "The Girl I Left Behind Me."

At length there dawned that sad day in July, when the steamer "Far West" arrived from the Big Horn, and the eager question: "What news of Custer?" was on every lip in Mandan and Bismarck. What news, indeed! News so terrible that it caused every cheek to pale, every lip to quiver and every heart to quail. When men spoke only in subdued whispers and women wept in silence. Who could give credence to so strange a tale? The news we heard was that Custer with all his command were lying dead in the valley of the Little Big Horn, slain by the cruel hands of the hostiles under Sitting Bull and Rain-in-the-Face, with all the savage accom-

paniments of mutilation and torture. Alas! it was too true, and one mighty wave of sympathy swept over the two cities at thought of the stricken widows at the fort, who also must hear this tale of horror. All was excitement too deep for words, and it was weeks before the citizens recovered from the shock of the sad announcement. There is no need in this brief history to re-tell the tale of savage butcher and dauntless bravery that the whole civilized world knows by heart. It makes the name of Fort Abraham Lincoln imperishable as once the home of heroes.

FORT MCKEAN

This interesting description of old "Fort Abraham Lincoln on the Hill" the infantry fort built in 1872 and "Fort Lincoln under the Hill," cavalry barracks built a year later, was placed on file in the War Department in 1876, in "Outline Description of Military Posts in the Department of the Missouri."

This historical fort was first named Fort McKean after Colonel Boyd McKean, who was killed while leading a charge at Cold Harbor in the War of the Rebellion. Later the War Department changed it to Fort Abraham Lincoln. But it will always be known as "Custer's Fort." This old fort has been rebuilt by the C. C. C. together with the three block houses and stockade and markers show where the various buildings once were.

Description from Photostatic Copy of Records of War Department

Established in August, 1872, as Fort McKean. Name changed to Fort Abraham Lincoln, November 19, 1872. Lat. 46° 46' 17", Long. 100° 50' 37". On the right (west) bank of the Missouri river, opposite Bismarck, D. T. Post office and Telegraph office at post. Bismarck, the present terminus of the Northern Pacific Railroad, five miles distant; Duluth, the eastern terminus of the road, 453 miles distant. Wagon roads on west bank to Fort Rice and Cheyenne Agency, and on the east bank to Fort Stevenson and Buford. Fort Seward 110 miles to the east. Fort Rice 25 miles by land. Fort Sully 303 miles by river, Fort Stevenson 70 miles by land and 94 miles by river.

Buildings. Cavalry barracks, situated on the low ground; officers' quarters, seven buildings; quarters for six companies, three buildings, including kitchens. Non-commissioned staff quarters and band quarters, two buildings; laundress' quarters, one building; guard-house, dispensary, granary, with capacity for 20,000 bushels; one commissary storehouse; one quartermasters stable. All built of pine

lumber, and (with the exception of stables and storehouse) plastered. The buildings are in good condition.

Infantry barracks, situated on the crest of the bluff. Quarters for three companies; officers' quarters, four buildings; one commissary storehouse and one quartermasters storehouse; guard house; hospital with capacity for 24 patients. All built of pine. Sawmill and shops built of cottonwood. Log buildings for laundress and scouts. Two blockhouses of squared logs.

Supplies. Quartermaster's stores, etc. furnished from depot at Jeffersonville, Ind., by rail to Sioux City and thence by boat. Subsistence stores from Chicago and Sioux City by rail and water. Beef, hay, and wood by contract. Water hauled from river in wagons. Twelve months' subsistence kept on hand.

Indians. The nearest Indians are on their reservation at Standing Rock Agency, between 50 and 60 miles from the post. Their number is estimated at 6,000, composed of different bands of Sioux. While rated as friendly, they are more or less constantly engaged, during the summer months, in hostile expeditions. Fort Berthold Agency for the Rees, Gros Ventres, and Mandans, 122 miles to the Northwest by river.

Reservation. Declared by the President February 11th, 1873. Enlarged by Executive order of December 17, 1875. Area $23\frac{1}{4}$ square miles.

Description of Country, etc. The fort is surrounded, except on the river front, by ravines, broken and irregular bluffs, and hill. To the west and south are the "Bad Lands"; to the east, the valley of the Missouri river. The land is generally sterile, soil light, gravelly, alkaline and *very dry*. Outside the bottom lands no crops can be expected, as the average rainfall is very small—13 inches. Timber is found in very limited quantities (mainly on islands in Missouri river and in the ravines) and consists of cottonwood, elm, ash, and oak. Mean temperature 43. Prevailing winds, west and northwest. East and south winds bring rain during the summer months. The climate, though one of extremes, is very healthy.

Coal (lignite) discovered in small quantities. The country to the Red River is almost level.

CHAPTER XVI

THE NEW FORT LINCOLN

Established—1897

Considerable confusion of thought has been caused by the name "Fort Abraham Lincoln." The old timers think of "Custer's fort on the west bank of the river and others the "new fort two miles south of Bismarck." The new fort was built on ground made historic from the fact that the last battle of the Indian war of 1863, the battle of Apple Creek, was fought on its site by General Sibley's troops and the allied tribes of the Sioux. Just south of it are General Sibley's rifle pits where his men resisted the fierce and final attack of the Sioux, July 29, 1863. Twenty-five hundred men were in Sibley's expedition, which camped for three days at the present site, and which finally drove the Indians across the river.

Burleigh City

On this site in 1872 was established the mushroom settlement of Burleigh City, built in anticipation of the railroad. Later the present Burleigh town site was adopted and Burleigh City was abandoned, living only in the memory of the oldest inhabitants.

The selection of this land for the new post of Fort Lincoln in 1897 was made by Major General Merritt, Quarter Master General Weeks, and the old Indian fighter Colonel Randall of Fort Russell, Wyoming.

General Miles, who was head of the United States Army at the time the site was selected, was personally familiar with the location, having visited Bismarck several times in the 70's and the 80's.

Dakota-Land

An official map of Dakota Territory now on file in the Library of Congress, Washington, D. C. drawn by M. F. Monry in 1862. Supt. of the U. S. National Observatory, Washington, D. C. shows Dakota Territory including North and South Dakota, Montana and part of Wyoming.

The rivers are all outlined and named and the regions are named for the Indian tribes. What is now Montana was named Pied Noir or Black Feet. Southern Montana is "Upsaroka Crow. Wyoming is "unexplored region," Devils Lake is "Salt Water region." Western

North Dakota (north) is "Assiniboinés", southern is "Sihasapas and Onkpapas", the region of Jamestown is "Yaktonwanna and Dakotahs." The north central part is "Gros Ventres and Minnetarees, Arikaree and Mandans."

1644

Sovereignities over Dakota-Land were in 1644. Charles II granted to the Duke of York (his brother James) the region from the Hudson river to the south sea (Pacific Ocean). This included North Dakota.

1713

Verendrye made the first claim to the Missouri valley for the French crown by claim of discovery. At Fort Pierre he made the title good by planting an engraved plate recently discovered and now famous.

1717

France granted to John Law all of Louisiana with the right to govern the region. In 1720 his scheme having failed, the Louisiana region reverted to the French.

1762

France, driven from North America ceded Louisiana to Spain, the latter taking possession and at once establishing trade on the Upper Missouri.

1800

Spain ceded Louisiana back to France.

1803

France sold to the United States Louisiana known as the Louisiana Purchase which embraced all the territory from the Mississippi to the Rocky Mountains.

1804

District of Louisiana created and its administration given to Indiana governor W. H. Harrison.

1812

Missouri Territory organized including Dakota in its boundaries.

1834

Michigan Territory organized for the region west of the Missouri River.

1836

Wisconsin Territory created to include all the region north of the Lake Michigan to the Missouri River.

1838

Iowa Territory created to include all the region north of the present state of Missouri lying between the Mississippi and Missouri rivers.

1849

Minnesota Territory created to include all land north of Iowa lying between the Mississippi and Missouri rivers.

1854

Nebraska Territory included all the territory north of Kansas lying west of the Missouri River and east of the Rocky Mountains.

1858

Minnesota admitted with present boundaries defined and the Dakota region between Minnesota boundary and the Missouri River remained Minnesota Territory.

1861

Dakota Territory created to embrace everything between the western line of Minnesota to the crest of the Rocky Mountains as shown by the ancient map at Washington, D. C. including North and South Dakota, Montana, part of Wyoming and small parts of Idaho and Nebraska.

1889

North and South Dakota admitted to the Union with the present boundaries.

In this ancient map Devils Lake is marked with the Indian name Minne Waukan Lake. Minne meant "water" and "Waukan" meant "holy, mysterious, awe-inspiring," but the white man translated it to mean "Devil."

One of the big factors in the recent development of the state of North Dakota is lignite, the soft, crumbly fuel which underlies Dakota, and is mined commercially now in 21 counties. Lignite is mentioned by the early explorers. The Indians knew of it but had no facilities to use it. The early steamboats tried it but were not built to make use of it so stuck to wood which was supplied them at "wood-yards" along the river. General Regis De Trobriand who was in command at Fort Stevenson, now near the site of large coal mines near Garrison, wrote of lignite in his Memoirs. Dr. Slaughter in his diary at Fort Rice in 1871 makes mention of a vein of coal discovered that could be worked to advantage were it not for the hostile Indians.

Dakota land was a rugged land for the courageous who accepted the gifts of Nature good or bad and faced the future with confidence.

Never forget that the homes and farms, towns and cities that dot our prairies were created by the wealth of our virgin soil and not by outside wealth.

CHAPTER XVIII

CUSTER'S TRAIL—MARK KELLOG'S DIARY

Mark Kellog, newspaper correspondent of the New York Herald, who was killed with Custer on the battlefield, wrote these notes on the fatal journey day by day as they marched from Fort Lincoln, Dakota Territory, traveling through the Badlands and to the "Greasy Grass" country in Montana.

His last dispatch to the Bismarck Tribune read: "We leave Rosebud tomorrow and by the time this reaches you we will have met the red devils, with what result remains to be seen. I go with Custer and will be at the death." He had written of the preparations for marching and had his notes ready to be sent by the first departing courier or scout. He was personally known by many of the Indians as the "man who makes the paper talk." His leather valise with his last notes was found on the battlefield and was sent to Dr. Dunn at Bismarck at whose home he had taken dinner the day before the march began at Fort Lincoln.

His notes were written with a pencil and were brief and these dispatches as they were called then, were sent back by the first departing courier to Bismarck, usually some of the Indian scouts who stealthily found his way back with his messages to and from the columns.

Indian Nicknames

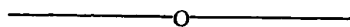
| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| General Terry | "One Star" |
| Adjutant Smith | "Man That Always Looks Mad" |
| Captain Maguire | "Big Belly" |
| Lieutenant Gibbs | "Lump on His Back" |
| Captain Hughes | "Slim Man" |
| Captain Michaels | "Four Eyes" |
| General Custer | "Long Hair" |
| Colonel Cook | "Handsome Man" |
| Nowlan | "Man That Swings" |

Notes taken in 1876 Copied in 1894

Sargent Stempker Company L., 7th.

Roster

General Alfred H. Terry
 Captain E. W. Smith Adjutant General
 Captain O. E. Michaslis Ordnance Officer
 J. W. Williams Assistant Surgeon, Chief Medical Officer
 Lt. H. J. Nowlan Acting Regimental Quartermaster
 Lt. Edward Magure Corps of Engineers



General Geo. A. Custer In command 7th Cavalry
 Lt. W. W. Cook Adjutant
 Lt. I. J. Nowlan Regimental Quartermaster
 Major M. A. Reno Command Right Wing
 Captain F. W. Benteen Commanding Left Wing
 M. W. Keogh Captain, 7th Cavalry, Commanding 1st Battalion
 G. W. Yates Captain, Commanding 2nd Battalion
 B. Weir Captain, Commanding 3rd Battalion
 T. H. French Captain, Commanding 4th Battalion
 M. Moylan Captain, Command Company A
 T. W. Custer Captain, Commanding Company C
 Captain T. M. McDougal Commanding Company B
 E. S. Godfrey 1st Lt., Commanding Company K
 Lt. A. E. Smith Commanding Company E
 and Acting Commissary of Sub'tc.
 Lt. D. McIntosh Commanding Company G
 E. G. Mathey 1st Lt., Company M.
 1st Lt. J. Calhoun Commanding Company L
 1st Lt. F. M. Gibson H. Company
 1st Lt. J. E. Porter L. Company
 1st Lt. C. C. De Rudio A. Company
 2nd Lt. B. H. Hodgson B. Company
 2nd Lt. W. S. Edgerly D. Company
 2nd Lt. D. D. Wallace G. Company
 2nd Lt. C. A. Varnum Commanding Indian Scouts
 2nd Lt. H. M. Harrington C. Company
 2nd Lt. L. R. Hare K. Company
 2nd Lt. J. G. Sturgis Attached to E. Company
 2nd Lt. W. V. W. Reily F. Company
 Capt. L. H. Sanger 17th Infantry, Commanding Inf. Battalion
 Capt. Malcolm McArthur Commanding Co. C., 17th Infantry
 Capt. S. Baker, Company B. Infantry
 Commanding Headquarters, Guard General Terry

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1st Lt. John Carland | Company B., 6th Infantry |
| 1st Lt. J. Chance | Company G., 17th Infantry |
| Lt. Frank J. Garety | Company C., 17th Infantry |
| 2nd Lt. H. P. Walker | Company G., 17th Infantry |
| 2nd Lt. W. H. Low ... | 20th Inf.—Commanding Gatling Battery |
| 2nd Lt. F. X. Kinzie | 20th Infantry—with Battery |

Four one-inch Gatlings and two half-inch guns (cannon).

General Custer, accompanied by the scouts, led the advance over the trail that he, himself, had made in 1873 on previous expeditions to the Yellowstone. A superb horseman, he was the personification of youthful energy and the guiding spirit of that campaign that ended so fatally to Custer and his friends. The cavalry followed him, then the battery supported by the infantry. Ambulances and hospital stores, forage teams, cattle, infantry to the rear, and cavalry to right and left.

Details

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Mules | 752 |
| Quartermaster's Horses | 32 |
| Government Horses | 695 |
| Battery Horses | 26 |
| Pat. Horses | 95 |
| Hired Horses | 74 |

Strength of Command

1 General Officer.
 8 Staff Officers to the Command. General.
 270 Officers, 7th Cavalry.

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Lt. R. E. Thompson | Chief Commissary of Subsistence |
| Dr. H. R. Porter | Assistant to Dr. Williams |

Reveille, 3 a. m. — Broke camp, 5 a. m. Marched through quarters.

Guard

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Chas. Reynolds | Chief Scout |
|----------------------|-------------|

Custer, front; Scouts.

Cavalry to the front; Battery supported by Co. Infantry. Ambulances and Hospital stores.

Forage teams; Cavalry; cattle; Infantry in rear; forage teams; Infantry rear; left and right—Cavalry deployed to the right and left in single file and companies.

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Felix Vincetieri | Said to have been Band Master |
| "Bloody Knife" | Ne-si-ri-pat |
| "Running Bull" | Ho-cus-pa-cut-rei |
| "The Lucky" | Na-ca-ba-han |
| "Bob Tail Bull" | Hocus-ta-nix |
| "Soldier" | Hoo-nanch |

Notes of the Little Big Horn Expedition

(Sunday), May 17th.—Broke camp, May 17, early morning, foggy, heavy roads. Formed in marching order two miles west Ft. Lincoln. Camped at 3 p. m. on the Big Heart, 13½ miles traveled. Splendid camp, wood, grass, and water plenty.

May 18th.—Reveille, 3 a. m. Under march 5 a. m. Halted at noon on Sweet Brier, 10 miles traveled. Slight rains near camp; heavy rains all around. In camp at 4 p. m. Custer, in person, energy.

May 19th.—Reveille, 3 a. m. Broke camp 5 a. m. and under way. Passed through prairie dog villages; saw one antelope and Reynolds, the guide, shot one. Custer pioneering ahead with scouts and two companies. Custer been with them all day. Quite a novel excitement. Rains of last night makes traveling heavy for forage and camp teams. Took lunch today noon, hard-tack and bacon. Greyhounds after jackrabbit. Rabbit won the race. Terrific rain and hail storm as went into camp; cold, etc. Last teams in at dark; roads growing heavier. Scout reaches us this a. m. with mail, and news of Black Hillers being massacred. Traveled 14 miles. Grazing very light, wood scarce and 5 miles away.

May 20th.—Reveille at 5 a. m. Broke camp at 8. Marched 4 miles to crossing of the (Little) Muddy; found little trouble at this crossing and wood was procured for tonight and tomorrow morning's uses. General Terry in advance, as well as General Custer this a. m. Teams standing the rough, heavy work well. Artillery team stampeded, ran mile; broken pole only damage. Marched 9½ miles. Went into camp west of Big Muddy, on Heights. Slight showers through p. m. and roads soft; but Big Muddy was an easy crossing; grazing better; weather raw with west wind.

May 21.—Reveille 3 a. m. Broke camp 6 a. m.; weather misty; dark, heavy clouds threatening rain. Indian scouts brought in 7 antelope. At noon the clouds broke, arose and passed away, leaving a clear sky and strong west wind. Column moving along nicely. Antelope more plenty. Several been killed through the day. Went into camp at 5 p. m. Marched 13½ miles. Terry and Custer to

the front; roads better; getting west of the watershed. One mule shot, diseased with glanders; one mule left behind, plays out; plenty water; no wood; had to haul some as came on. Three invalids in ambulance; one from accidental shot in the heels. On the south nearly all day—very rough. Cone formation first appearing from Mauvais de Terre; general country rolling, but many high buttes with peculiar names given by Indians, viz: Rattlesnake Den, Wolf's Den; Cherry Ridge; Maiden's Breasts. U. S. A. Veterinary Surgeon Dr. C. A. Sterns' duties begin when get into camp. Reynolds, our guide, out at 2 a. m., found an excellent route; struck Stanley trail at noon today; left it Friday last.

May 22nd.—Column took up line of March at 6 a. m. Weather clear, cool, pleasant. Getting beyond watershed; roads harder, drier. Was at front with Generals Terry and Custer all day; but little scouting done today. The guides, Reynolds and Bloody Knife ahead. Plenty of antelopes seen today; Reynolds killed three, and fourteen in all were brought in. Struck Custer's return Black Hills trail of '74 at 10 a. m. Marched $15\frac{1}{2}$ miles today; crossed the Thin Faced Creek, a tributary of Knife River, at 12:15 p. m. and went into camp. A wagon upset today and the driver was injured considerably. The country is dry here; no rain here since prairie fires of two weeks ago; but grazing is best we have had. Sufficient water; but not plenty and poor quality. An abundance of timber. Health of column continues good. Found first grouse, and plenty here. Some curlew and large flocks of Jack snipe.

May 23rd.—Broke camp at 5 a. m. Weather cool, clear; southerly winds. Marched 8 miles and went into camp at Young Men's Buttes. Plenty timber; best grazing we have had; a spring of clear, cold water. General Custer, while chasing elk ahead of advance, and when very near an elk, came into a fresh burning campfire left by hostiles. He about faced and returned to column. First elk seen; antelope plenty. Arikarees some years ago had fight on and about Young Men's Buttes. We are camped within 40 miles of Berthold north course. Scouts say could reach in one day easy on ponies. About 10 miles north is Lost Waters Butte; makes stream water 16 to 18 inches in diameter, rushes out of the side of the butte; makes considerable stream and disappears after running 100 yards. General Custer visits scouts; much at home amongst them. Cause of short march today: to give stock chance to rest; have long march tomorrow. Sergeant Stempker, Co. L., 7th Cavalry, buried at this point, August 26, 1873; headboard undisturbed. Just at dusk Indians seen about three miles away moving along on top of coteau.

May 24th.—Camp broken and under march at usual hour. Weather clear, cool, bright. Antelope plenty. General Custer, Capt. Tom Custer and party miles away on right flank hunting nearly most of the day; killed elk and lynx. Crossed line of survey of N. P. R. R. at 9 a. m. Traveled on Custer's return Yellowstone trail of '73 today. Reached dam on fork of Big Heart at 3 p. m. Traveled 19 and one-eighth miles, roads hard, dry, crossing easy. Health of column continues good. Most beautiful and convenient camp yet struck, plenty wood, excellent grazing. Stream clear, cool, and swift running; plenty small fish. Men bathing. Gen. Terry continually in the advance. First issue, rations. Face of the country past two days, high rolling prairie, very beautiful in its green carpet. On cutband of stream, opposite camp, is a plainly defined stream of lignite five or six feet in depth. Large pieces of lignite in bed of river all along drifted in.

May 25th.—Broke camp 5 a. m. Marched $19\frac{1}{2}$ miles; $15\frac{3}{4}$ miles out had to use bridges at a drain crossing. Went into camp on a tributary of (?) Big Heart. Since left camp (Big) Heart at 5 a. m. Plenty grass, water and wood. Grazing improving rapidly; grass here evidently two or three weeks in advance of that on Missouri River. Weather beautiful. Country passed over today very handsome. Four men on sick list. Only two mules played out as yet, both government. Stock generally improving. Past three days discovered the grass contained millions of infinitesimal sized locusts. Too small to hurt grass now.

May 26th.—Broke camp 5:20 a. m. Crossed run on bridge. Marched $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles to another feeder of Big Heart, going into camp at 2:30 p. m. Marching twelve and four one-hundredths miles. Scouts from Lincoln on road at 3 a. m. with mail. Weather hot and dry, first day of real heat yet experienced. Good grass and water, no wood. Marched over considerable cactus growth today and some red gravel beds seen; first indication of approach to Badlands. Gen. Custer pioneering at front all day. Lays all the camps and attends in person to much of detail of march. Antelope plenty; no signs of other game. No Indian signs for past three days. Mail brought news by telegraph to General Terry of cabinet changes. Some astonishment expressed because of appointment of Don Cameron as Secretary of War. Hardly expected in military circles. Last two days we have marched between the Stanley Trail west of '73, and Custer's return Yellowstone Trail of '73. It is an excellent route thus far. Should properly be called Terry's Trail.

May 27th.—Broke camp at 5 a. m. Weather clear and warm,